

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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San Diego Shows an 8.4 Percent Overall Crime Reduction in 2020

POLICE DATA REVEALS DECREASES IN NEARLY EVERY CATEGORY OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

San Diego – Today Police Chief David Nisleit announced the City of San Diego saw an 8.4% reduction in overall crime citywide during 2020. San Diego consistently ranks among the safest big cities in the nation.

When compared to the previous year, data show decreases in five of the seven categories that are tabulated. The categories are grouped by violent crimes including homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault and by property crimes including burglary, theft and vehicle theft.

“From facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to keeping the peace during the many protests, 2020 was a trying year for police departments across the U.S.,” Chief Nisleit said. “The overall reduction in crime represents the continued work of our police officers every day and on every shift to prevent and reduce crime in our City. In 2021, SDPD will continue to build trust with our communities to stop crime before it starts and keep San Diego one of the safest big cities in the country.”

While increases in homicide and aggravated assault led to a 1.7% increase in violent crime in 2020, the rate per thousand residents in 2020 is comparable to rates seen in the early 1970s. Property crimes were reduced by 10.4% and the rate per thousand residents for both property crimes and overall crime in the City are comparable to rates in the 1950s.

The breakdown by category is as follows:

	Jan - Dec		% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		% Clearances	
	2019	2020		2019	2020	2019	2020
Murder	50	55	10.0%	0.04	0.04	66.0%	87.3%
Rape	561	485	-13.5%	0.39	0.34	20.5%	13.2%
Robbery	1,346	1,207	-10.3%	0.95	0.84	34.6%	29.2%

Aggravated Assault	3,258	3,556	9.1%	2.29	2.49	48.8%	42.7%
Violent Crimes	5,215	5,303	1.7%	3.67	3.71	42.2%	37.4%
Burglary	3,543	3,324	-6.2%	2.49	2.32	11.1%	12.2%
Theft	18,426	16,044	-12.9%	12.97	11.22	6.8%	3.8%
Vehicle Theft	5,172	4,953	-4.2%	3.64	3.46	3.3%	8.4%
Property Crimes	27,141	24,321	-10.4%	19.11	17.00	6.7%	5.9%
TOTAL	32,356	29,624	-8.4%	22.78	20.71	12.5%	11.7%

Today's announcement comes just days after [Chief Nisleit joined Mayor Todd Gloria, Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe and community leaders](#) to detail the new No Shots Fired program which will provide outreach and resources to known gang members and offer opportunities to exit the gang culture and life.

The 2020 crime trends for the City of San Diego are consistent with that of other major U.S. cities, with preliminary reports showing increases in homicides and aggravated assaults across the board.

The San Diego Police Department compiles and submits the data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting program that collects data from departments across the U.S. The Department is scheduled to present their annual crime data to the City Council as an information item Tuesday, March 9 at 11 a.m.

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